

the Ruby-throated Bulbul's monotonous four-note call was heard from several places, one bird answering another. The Emerald Dove's mournful coo came in as a backing sound to the chorus. Grey Drongos began shouting to each other at 6.44, and, just after, the Malabar Loriquet's high-pitched squeaky three-note cry showed that these last two species had begun their morning rivalry over the fresh honey in the flowers of the *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius* tree behind the house. The Pitta must have overslept, for his early 'Good morning' was absent today. And the Bluechat's sweet whistle, which I heard yesterday did not join in. For ten minutes or so the chorus continued and then gradually died away, as they all settled down to the more prosaic job of looking for breakfast. Only the plebeian Grey Drongo continued to shout during meals.

NARAIKKADU,

NEAR DOHNAVUR, S. INDIA.

C. G. WEBB-PEPLOE.

29th January, 1946.

24.—MANGO-FRUIT—ON THE MENU OF THE COMMON PYTHON (*PYTHON MOLURUS*).

This is an account of a python swallowing mangoes!! The incident occurred in a tea plantation in the neighbourhood of Siliguri in the district of Darjeeling.

In the month of June (1946), just before dusk, a few tea-garden workers returning after a day's labour detected a python beneath a large mango tree in the tea-garden compound. The python was swallowing a mango which had fallen from the tree. The manager of the garden, who arrived at the spot saw the snake devouring the mango. The bulging of the neck region could be seen from a distance. Later the snake was killed.

During the skinning of the snake, the oesophagus was also cut open, and four mangoes were recovered from it. The pericarp of these mangoes bore the marks of the teeth of the reptile, the fruits were otherwise intact. The length of the snake was 13 feet.

After a detailed examination of the mangoes—found within the oesophagus of the snake, and also those obtained fresh from the tree, it was noted that they were infested with insect larvae. Each mango contained two or three larvae.

A diet of fruit is surely unusual for a snake. The four mangoes inside the alimentary tract suggests that they were not accidentally swallowed.

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35, BALLYGUNJ CIRCULAR ROAD,

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